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Cumorah Southern Messenger

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"The Greatest Story ever Told"



"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, and saying,

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds."

Vol. 27

No. 12

Cumorah's Southern Messenger

DECEMBER 1952

Editor: Evan P. Wright

Assoc. Editor: Eugene R. Holman

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OUR COVER PICTURE:

Drawn by Miss Doreen Warren
from Port Elizabeth, C.P.



MORMON IN NEW U.S. CABINET. Mr. Eisenhower yesterday announced the selection of Mr. Ezra Taft Benson, a former official of the National Council of the Farmer Co-operatives, as Secretary of Agriculture.

Mr. Eisenhower also announced that he had chosen Mr. Sherman Adams, Governor of New Hampshire, as "Assistant to the President."

Both appointments will be sent to the Senate for confirmation after Mr. Eisenhower's inauguration (Sapa-U.P.)

FORMER MISSION PRESIDENTS TO BE HONOURED. Special honour to the thirteen men who have presided over the South African Mission will feature the South African Mission reunion to be held on Saturday evening, October 4, in the Whitney Hall.

Posters and pictures will honour the leaders, and a letter from President Evan P. Wright, present mission head, paying honour to those who have pre-sided will be read at the reunion.

PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE MISSION ARE: Warren H. Lyon, 1902-6; Ralph Badger, 1906-8; Henry S. Steed, 1908-9; Brigham A. Hendricks, 1909-12; Frank J. Hewlett, 1912-14; Nicholas G. Smith, 1914-21; J. Wylie Sessions, 1921-26; Samuel Martin, 1926-29; Don Mack Dalton, 1929-35; Richard E. Folland, 1938-44; June B. Sharp, 1944-48.

ELDERS PRESENT CHURCH STORY AT FRANCE FAIR. The story of Joseph Smith, Book of Mormon, and growth of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in its movement westward were made known to residents of Nancy, France, recently during their annual fair.

The "Froire Exposition de Nancy" was conducted for fifteen days during July.

One of the exhibits, a large beehive, was sponsored by Elders Paul Lefevor and Clarence Jolley. It was installed with visual aids which depicted historic and current activities of the Church.

During the fair the elders distributed more than 9,000 tracts, made personal contacts and arranged cottage meetings, in addition to supplying the commentary for the colourful maps and pictures.

Each evening, films were shown of the scenic areas of Utah depicting the growth of the area since its settlement in 1847 by the pioneers.

THREE GENERATIONS OF NAVAHOES JOIN CHURCH. Gallup, New Mexico. — Three generations of the same Navaho family entered the waters of baptism recently to swell total of baptisms this year in the Southwest Indian Mission to 400. Included among the newly baptized converts were Bah Charlie, 92, matriarch of the little family group, and Willie Tom, Mrs. Charlie's grandson-in-law.

Mrs. Charlie is probably the oldest Navaho ever to join the Church, according to President Golden R. Buchanan. She remembers the days before the white man came, and distinctly remembers the capture of the Navahoes at Ft. Sumner. She participated in the "long walk" to Bosque Redondo and back.

In 1896 Bah Charlie's husband was baptized by Joe Tietjen, one of the first missionaries sent to the Navaho tribesmen. He was baptized in Smith Lake, New Mexico, along with many others of his people.

(Continued on page 184)

EDITORIAL

IN these days we hear much of peace conferences held throughout the world. Conferences which make an attempt to bring more happiness to man and to make this world of ours a better place to live in. We are not unmindful of the good that is brought about by holding these conferences; however, it seems that there is not a spirit of love and brotherhood existing in these gatherings and many times we read of different leaders, in the different countries of the world, going into temper tantrums and leaving the assembly hall because they could not procure their own way.

In contrast to this, we read of the huge conferences held in Salt Lake City, and the love and co-operation which is there, and among the General Authorities and the members of the Church. All things are settled in a spirit which is in keeping with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

It was in this spirit that Elders and members came together from all parts of South Africa and Northern and Southern Rhodesia, to register for the second leadership convention in the history of the South African Mission.

On the evening of the 22nd of November, 1952, President Wright welcomed the delegates, and a week which was destined to be filled with encouragement, instruction, inspirational talks, recreational activities, and the clean association of members and missionaries began.

When walking up to Rhodes Memorial, early Sunday morning, one could see the glistening of beautiful silver trees, and there above the City of Cape Town delegates looked out upon the perfect creations of our Father in Heaven. Here it was that we were closer to God, because we were worshipping him in the greatest church of all, "the great outdoors."

Each day was filled with instruction which was invaluable to the delegates and which will bring growth to the Branches of the Church in this land.

The concert, the home evening, the banquet were all very well attended and thoroughly enjoyed.

It was the testimony meeting, which lasted all day Friday, that was the highlight of our convention. The testimonies which were born will be long remembered.

In life there are occasions which are outstanding, and as this convention comes to a close it will be one of the highlights of the lives of many of us. We wish to express our thanks to those who made this convention the success that it has been — to Sister Wright for the many meals which she prepared for us, and to President Wright for the work and the time he spent in planning and leading the convention. It was not, however, the efforts of two or three that made it such a success but the co-operation of all. Everyone worked together, with one view in mind, and that was to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ and to gain more knowledge and wisdom to make us better missionaries and members. If this spirit of love and co-operation can be taken home to the Branches and put into use there, our convention will have served its purpose.

E.R.H.

Leadership Convention

1952



PICTURE OF DELEGATES

First Row: President Barry Mayo (second counsellor), President Thomas Wilson (first counsellor), President Evan P. Wright (Mission President), Sister Jean D. Wright (Relief Society President), Johanna Fourie, Evan J. Wright, Douglass Wright.

Second Row: Nicolaas Goosen, Elder Eugene R. Holman, Sister Pamela Wande, Sister Theodora Booyesen, Barbara Jean Wright, Madge Halse, Alvin Park, Elder Leon B. Casper.

Third Row: Jean Marchand, Lavinia Bosse, Norma Sawyer, Theresa Trollip, Clarence Jones, Clea Jones, Beatrice Smith, Elder Donald M. Cole, Susanna Jakins, Elder Ronald B. Clark, Jeanne Charsley.

Fourth Row: Alma S. Schroeder, Elder Veryle Leavitt, Pieter van Rhyn, Hugh Helm, Ursula King, Leslie Halse, Georgina Spear, Cecilia Jubber, Denise Osborne, Elder Jack E. Dahl, Barbara Wrench.

Fifth Row: Leonard Griffith, Alwin Hubert, Vincent Dollar, Elder Wayne J. Mendenhall, Elder Grant G. Olsen, Elder Louis K. Falck, Elder Richard A. Madsen, William H. Brummer, Elder Joseph Koevan, Douglas Charsley.

Sixth Row: Elder Lowell D. Wood, Elder Gerald Hulbert, Elder Glen R. Sherwood, Elder Richard Sampson, Elder Don W. Manning, Jean McGill, Salome Campbell, Mathilda MacAdam.

Seventh Row: Elder Kay L. Crabtree, Johann Brummer, Elder Michael J. Clarke.

Absent: Mary G. Daubney, Fred Ninow.

"How Glorious and near to the Angels is Youth that is Clean"

Convention Address by *ALMA SCHROEDER*

"THERE is an old story, which tells of a great artist who was engaged to paint a mural for a cathedral. The subject was the life of Christ. For many years the artist laboured diligently, and finally the painting was finished except for the two most important figures, the Christ Child and Judas Iscariot. He searched far and wide for models for those two figures.

One day while walking in an old part of the city he came upon some children playing in the street. Among them was a twelve-year-old boy whose face stirred the painter's heart. It was the face of an angel — a very dirty one perhaps, but the face he needed.

The artist took the child home with him, and day after day the boy sat patiently until the face of the Christ Child was finished. But the painter failed to find a model for Judas. For years, haunted by the fear that his masterpiece would remain unfinished, he continued his search.

One afternoon, in a tavern, the painter saw a gaunt and tattered figure stagger across the threshold and fall to the floor, begging for a glass of wine. The painter lifted him up and looked into a face that startled him. It seemed to bear the marks of every sin of mankind.

'Come with me,' the painter said, 'I will give you wine, food and clothing.' Here at last was his model for Judas. For many days and parts of many nights the painter worked to complete his masterpiece.

As the work went on, a change came over the model. A strange tension came over him, his bloodshot eyes were fixed with horror at the painted likeness of himself. One day, perceiving his subjects' uneasiness, the painter paused in his work, saying: 'My son, I'd like to help you. What troubles you so?'

The model sobbed and after a long moment he lifted pleading eyes to the old painter's face: "Do you then not remember me? Years ago I was your model for the Christ Child."

Why did this man end up as he did? Why, because he had turned his face from God. He had devoted his life to the gratifying of his earthly body's pleasures, its desires and its passions. He had forgotten that he also had a spiritual body which needed upbuilding.

In the world to-day too many of the young people are turning their faces from God, and are responding to the call of the physical pleasures of life. People who condemn their will to the service of their appetites must pay the penalty. Charles Wagner once said: "Let your needs rule; pamper them. You will see them multiply like insects in the sun. The more you give them, the more they demand. He is senseless who seeks for material prosperity only."

We, the youth of the Church, here in South Africa have quite a hard task in strictly obeying the teachings of the Church because we are so few in number, which means that we are unable to associate continually, at work and play, with those who have the same beliefs and ideals as ours. I think that is why we find some of the younger members drifting away, and those that are left, if they are honestly living the Gospel of Jesus Christ, will find that they are being left out of so many things. It is not as if they are not still liked, but you'll find people, their old friends, saying "They're different now." Their idea of fun being all the things which, although they don't realise it then, will eventually result in their downfall.

It is of no avail saying that we can sow our wild oats now for later on will be time enough to plan for our life after death. Life eternal is for a very long time and it has to stand on a very firm foundation. The only time to build that foundation is now; the only way by living the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

"This life is the time for men to prepare to meet God; yea, behold the day of this life is the day for men to per-

(Continued on page 186)

"Peace on Earth, Goodwill Towards Men"

By Sister NORA NEWELL

CHRISTMAS EVE! Noise, loud raucous laughter, shouting, crowds hustling and bustling one another along the busy streets, having little purpose but to have a good time, and to see the sights. Everywhere there were shrill, high-pitched voices, the results of too much liquor beginning to take effect. As the man walked down the street he had a thoughtful look on his face, and he looked very sad and weary. This then is what Christmas means to the modern generation, a time when one has rowdy drinking parties getting into the spirit of Christmas.

"What a long way from the real meaning of Christmas we have come," he thought. "Where can we find that peace which we are promised, will we never be able to attain that?"

As he walked along his thoughts went back to that night nearly two thousand years ago. That night which brought "good tidings of great joy to all people." The night which the people through the ages had been waiting and praying for. The Prophets had told the people that a child would be born, and that his name would be called "Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Yet when this event took place there was no pomp and ceremony. Christ did not come in might and majesty to lead forth mighty battles, he came as a little child. He was born in a humble stable with cattle around and a bright star shining above. There the shepherds and kings knelt side by side in worship. Their hearts and spirits were uplifted at the manifestations which they had beheld, and at the knowledge that at last the Saviour of mankind was come to bring "Peace on Earth, and goodwill towards men." This was Jesus the Christ, the only begotten Son of God, who was to give his very life so that mankind would be able to obtain eternal life and glory.

"Ah," thought the man, "what great significance Christmas should have for us then. Yet it seems that the very

essence of Christmas has been lost from the earth. Has the Saviour's mission been in vain?" he mused. "For nowhere can we find that peace which the Saviour was to bring, and the whole world is in a turmoil. He was disturbed from his reverie by a screeching of brakes as a car swerved across the road. Alas, too late, for a little child had been knocked down. He quickly ran to give assistance. But luckily the child was not seriously hurt, although the occupants of the car were quite badly shaken. The man could see that the people in the car had obviously been drinking quite heavily. "Goodwill towards men," he thought, "how can there be goodwill, when men have lost the spirit of goodwill. Every Christmas the hospitals are crowded, more often than not the results of accidents like the one he had just beheld, and the newspapers are full of crime. He continued on his way again, and his heart felt very heavy within him. He felt downcast and despondent, for he could see no ray of brightness in the world.

Then suddenly he came upon a cottage which had a warm, inviting glow in its windows. The cottage looked very humble, but something drew him towards it, and he could not resist looking through the windows. There he beheld a wonderful scene. Seated around a cosy fire was a woman, a man, and six young children, in one corner of the room stood a Christmas tree, with gay home-made decorations adorning it, and a few presents, which one could see had been parcelled up with loving care. The woman held the youngest child in her arms, and her hands, although worn and hard with work, were very gentle as she rocked the child to sleep. Her face looked contented, and it was wreathed in an angelic smile. The rest of the children were seated on the floor nestling against the mother's skirts or the father's legs. The man held a large Bible on his knees and he was reading

(Continued on page 190)

The Songs of Christmas Time

By LOIS SNELLING

The old, loved songs of Christmas time
Are sweet to the listening ear:
"Far, Far Away On Judea's Plains"
And "Joy To The World" — how dear!
With "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing,"
We glimpse a heavenly light—
"It Came Upon A Midnight Clear"

And the strains of "Silent Night."
The old refrains, "There's A Song In
The Air,"
The carols of a Saviour's birth,
"God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"
And Peace — Peace on Earth!

History of

... FAR, FAR AWAY ON JUDEA'S PLAINS

Far, far away on Judea's plains,
Shepherds of old heard the joyous strains:
Sweet are these strains redeeming love,
Message of mercy from heav'n above:
Lord, with the angels we too would rejoice,
Help us to sing with the heart and voice:

Hasten the time when, from ev'ry clime,
Men shall unite in the strains sublime:

CHORUS:

Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the highest;
Peace on earth, goodwill to men,
Peace on earth, goodwill to men!

* * *

THE AUTHOR AND COMPOSER

The words and tune of "Far, Far Away on Judea's Plains" were the work of John Menzies Macfarlane, son of John and Annabella Sinclair Macfarlane, born October 11, 1833, at Sterling, near the city of Glasgow, Scotland. His father was a duke's coachman and when the Queen of England visited Scotland, he was assigned as her coachman. The father died when John was quite young. John came to America with the family and settled in Cedar City, Utah, 1851 or 1852, where he married Ann Chatterley. He organized a choir and when St. George was settled he took his choir there and gave a concert to cheer up the people. After the concert Erastus Snow said to him: 'We need a choir in St. George. You go home, sell out, and come down here to live.' This he did. In

the meantime, he helped settle Toquerville and built the first house there.

When the late Bishop Scanlan of the Catholic Church visited Silver Reef, a flourishing mining camp in those days, he expressed a desire to hold mass in St. George. The Latter-day Saint authorities, with a liberality for which they are noted, consented and Brother Macfarlane trained his choir for six weeks learning the Latin mass. It was given in the St. George Tabernacle. About this time he thought there was need of more Christmas carols; so he wrote, 'Far, Far Away On Judea's Plains,' the popularity of which has reached far beyond our own Church bonds.

Brother Macfarlane was a valuable citizen in a pioneer community. Besides being a district judge, a surveyor, a builder, he was able to play on almost any musical instrument. He died in 1892."

The Church Around The World (Continued)

Mrs. Charlie is proud to be a member of the Church and tells all who will listen that most of her family belong as well. Her health remains good and she is very active. Recently she walked 10 miles to pay a visit to her children. "She delights to participate in all church activities and is with all a very interesting young lady," says President Buchanan.

Willie Tom, the other distinguished member of the group, is a tribal delegate to the Navaho Tribal Council at Window Rock, Ariz., and is a power among his people. At the last conference of the mission in the Fort Wingate District he was called upon to speak and ably expounded the gospel to his people in their native tongue.

Silent Night . . .

Silent Night, Holy Night!
 All is calm, all is bright,
 Round yon Virgin Mother and Child!
 Holy Infant so tender and mild.
 Sleep in heavenly peace!
 Silent Night, Holy Night!
 Shepherds quake at the sight.
 Glories stream from heaven afar.
 Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia;
 Christ, the Saviour is born!

Silent Night, Holy Night!
 Son of God, Love's pure light
 Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
 With the dawn of redeeming grace,
 Jesus, Lord at Thy birth!
 Silent Night, Holy Night;
 Guiding star, lend thy light,
 See the eastern Wise Man bring
 Gifts and homage to our King
 Jesus, the Saviour is born.

* * *

Inspiration to pen the words of this soulful carol came to Joseph Mohr, an assistant pastor at Oberdorf, near Ansdorf, Germany, on Christmas eve, 1818. The young priest was attending a celebration in the school house at Ansdorf with his dear friend Franz Gruber, a village schoolmaster, song writer and church organist. These two friends talked earnestly and regretfully over the fact that there was no really great Christmas song. Pondering the thought, young Mohr that same evening in his church study saw the picture—"and there were shepherds in the same country, abiding in the fields, and keeping watch over their flocks by night." (Luke 2:8)—a flash and the inspiration came, and so on the peaks of the Tyrolian Alps were framed the words of the carol that was to be heard around the world.

Next morning, Christmas (some writers say it was the same night), Mohr went to the home of Franz Gruber and presented him with a folded copy of his carol. Franz opened it, read it and exultingly exclaimed, 'You have found it!—the right song!—God be praised!' He then repaired to his own room and, inspired by the words, composed the tune as we now have it. Franz hurried back to his friend saying: 'Your song—it sings itself: the tune came to me at once, and while you were gone I played to the Strasser Sisters, and we have together composed it.'

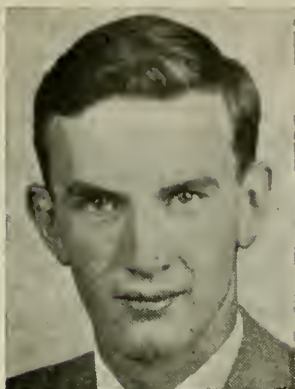
Mohr and Gruber then sang it as a duet, the author singing the melody, the com-

poser the bass. The Strasser sisters, under the name of the 'Strasser Quarett' learned it and later it was sung at the great cathedral of Leipsig. The song was first called 'The Tyrolian Song' because of its place of birth. It was not printed, however, until 1840. In 1854, thirty-six years after it was written, the Berlin Church Choir sang it before Emperor Frederick Wilhelm IV. The Emperor was so delighted with the beautiful song that he ordered it given first place in all Christmas programmes.

Music histories contain very little, if anything, concerning the lives of Joseph Mohr and Franz Gruber. Only the years of birth and death are recorded. Mohr, 1792—1848; Gruber, 1786—1863.

Speaking of "Silent Night", Mme. Schumann-Heink paid this tribute:

Oh, that is such a lovely song! It was composed by this man Gruber in a tiny village near Salzburg, where he lived. The author didn't think much of it at the time, but it got so popular that now on Christmas Eve, everywhere in the world they still sing "Stille Nache". I sang this song and my records went even to South America. I got letters once from the nurses in a hospital there and they told me how they put on that record on Christmas Eve and that they all cried, nurses and doctors as well as the sick ones; and they all thanked me for it. That touched me very much. Yes—these simple songs have reached the hearts of and given pleasure to thousands and thousands of people all over the country.



Elder Coon



Elder Peterson



Elder Wilson

(Continued from page 182)

form their labours . . . if we do not improve our time while in this life, then cometh the night of darkness wherein there can be no labour performed."

The price of forsaking the Gospel of

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

DEPARTURES

ELDERS CLIFFORD A. COON AND BRUCE R. PETERSON were honorably released from their missionary labours on November 13, 1952 and sailed for home via East Coast on the Europa. They embarked from Durban.

ELDER RICHARD L. WILSON was honorably released from his missionary labours on November 28, 1952 and sailed for home via the West Coast on the Stirling Castle. He embarked from Cape Town.

ELDER COON has served in the Transvaal, Salisbury, Mission Office, where he laboured as private secretary to President Wright, and in Durban where he laboured as District President of the Durban District and Branch President of the Durban Branch.

ELDER PETERSON has served in the Transvaal, Genealogical Office, Cape District, Bloemfontein, and Salisbury where he laboured as District President of the Salisbury District and Branch President of the Salisbury Branch.

ELDER WILSON, has served in the Cape, Durban, Port Elizabeth, Bulawayo where he laboured as District and Branch President of the Bulawayo Branch and District, and East London where he laboured as District and Branch President of the East London Branch and District.

ARRIVALS.

ELDER RICHARD DEWEY SAMPSON from Richfield, Utah, U.S.A. and **ELDER JOSEPH ELMO KOEVEN** from Logan, Utah, U.S.A. arrived aboard the "Pretoria Castle" on November 20, 1952.

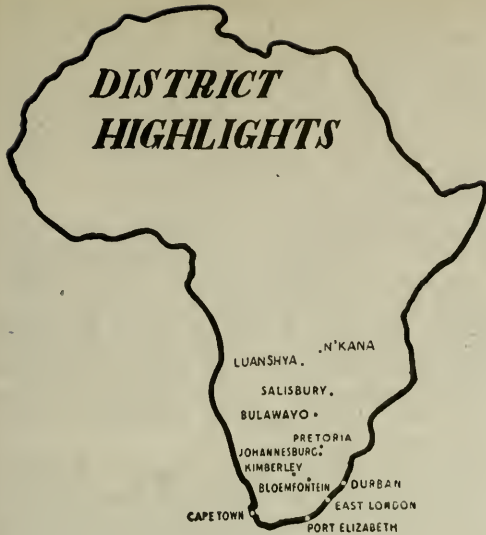
Elder Sampson has been assigned to labour with Elder R. Glen Sherwood, in Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia.

Elder Koeven has been assigned to labour with Elder Dale L. Prince, in Durban, Natal.

Jesus Christ is too great to pay. Are you willing to give up so much, willing to forsake an eternity of happiness for so little?

We the youth of the Church, are often labelled "old-fashioned," but if being able to say no in the presence of those who mock and jeer, if in being honest, true, chaste, benevolent and virtuous, if in living our lives so that we can one day stand before our Maker clean and pure, if in living so that we can at all times say "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ" means being old-fashioned, then by all means let us be old-fashioned.

"How glorious and near to the angels is youth that is clean, for this youth shall have joy unspeakable here and eternal happiness hereafter."



SALISBURY BRANCH

Branch President: Elder Kay L. Crabtree,
17 Von Proagh Ave.

We unite in wishing Elder B. R. Peterson "Bon Voyage," home and the best of luck throughout life.

We welcome Elder Low into our midst and hope he will enjoy his labours here in Salisbury.

The Branch is progressing successfully and a children's Christmas party is planned for December 20th at the Kings home.

Our deepest regards are extended to Sister Maxwell and her son Richard. Richard has been seriously ill due to a dental infection which also affected the heart. May the Lord's blessings rest upon him.

We waved goodbye to Sister Ursula King and Elder Crabtree as they left on the train for convention at Cape Town. We look forward to their return. We know that they will have many ideas, helps and suggestions which will help us in furthering the work of the Lord here.

We also waved goodbye to Sister Imelda Williams upon her leaving to return to her home in Cape Town. She has been with us for nine months and we want to extend our appreciation for the support and assistance she has given the Salisbury Branch. May the Lord's blessings always be with her.

LUANSHYA BRANCH

Branch President: Douglas E. Charsley,
130 "E" Avenue, Luanshya.

Reported by Jeanne Charsley

Early this month Brother Ronald P. Roux was set apart as the Sunday School Super-

intendent of the Luanshya Branch by Elder Grant Olson. May the Lord bless and guide this brother in his new calling.

On the 13th a farewell social was held in honour of Elder Melvin Stockdale. The Primary organized the social and the children all acquitted themselves very well.

One of the highlights of the evening was the recitation by Sister Aletta Terblanche, of a poem composed by our guest of honour himself. We would like to congratulate him on being the possessor of such a beautiful talent. He was as surprised to hear his words spoken as we were! We are indeed sorry to bid him adieu. May the Lord be with him always.

As the holiday season approaches the Branch once more prepares to wend its way 'down South.' The Charsleys and Spears, after attending Convention are holidaying in Port Elizabeth. Sister Johanna van Deventer and family are vacationing near Middleburg, Transvaal.

DURBAN BRANCH

Branch President: Elder Lowell D. Wood,
21 Bulwer Road.

Reported by Joyce Wahlburn

On the 1st of November the backyard of the Marchand home was the scene of a jumble sale, held to swell our Delegates Fund. The 8th of November saw yet another function for this fund, this time a Cake Sale, at which quite a good sum was raised.

Patrick Fagan was in the Fever Hospital during this month with an attack of Mumps. We certainly missed his ready smile at Sunday School.

A "bonny" baby Son was born to Sister Valerie Steadman (nee Hancock), in Salt Lake City, on the 21st of October.

On the 8th of November the members of the Branch gathered together at a Farewell Social, held in honour of Elder Coon, who sailed from here on the 13th of November, with Elder Petersen.

Elder Wilson paid a short visit during the month, before sailing for home on the 20th of November.

We are very happy to welcome Elder Wood to our Branch. In the short time he has been here, it is already evident that he will do much for the welfare of our Branch.

On the 18th of November a merry band of well-wishers gathered at the station to bid our Delegates: Sister L. Bosse, Sister J. Marchand, and Elder Wood a pleasant stay in Cape Town.

BLOEMFONTEIN BRANCH

Branch President: Elder R. B. Clark,
22, Parfitt Avenue.

Reported by Barbara Wrench

The Bloemfontein Branch felt very happy and honoured to have Brother and Sister Jones and family present at our Fast and Testimony meeting this month. It was inspiring to hear the testimonies of these good people.

Rummage Sales have been held throughout this month to raise funds and up to date about £12 has been handed in.

Another Square Dance was held this month but was not a success. We hope that by next Winter, the Bloemfontein public will have realised that Square Dancing has arrived in this town.

On the 8th, a Braaivleis was held at the home of Sister Daubney, this proved to be most enjoyable and a good time was had by all. Little Gavin Spear added to the spirit of the evening by falling into the fish-pond; no damage was done however. Letters have been received from Sister Pat Murphy during this month. She is staying in Provo at present and likes it very much. She sends her love to all her friends.

We are very happy to have Brother C. B. Spear of Parys, with us. There's never a dull moment when C.B.'s around!

MOWBRAY BRANCH

Branch President: Brother Daniel A. Cherrett, 14, Serpentine, Pinelands.

Reported by Beatrice E. Smith

The news of the month commences with a report of District Conference and ends with some of the details of the Leadership Convention which is, at present, being held at "Cumorah."

The Conference was held on the 26th of October—a beautiful day, spiritually and meteorologically.

We offer our congratulations to Sister Irene Louw on the arrival of little Cynthia, who was born during October.

To Brother and Sister Bob Smith, we also offer congratulations. Their youngest daughter, Brenda, won the first prize in the Vredehoek Baby Show. This should be a great advertisement for Mormonism.

Welcome home to Sister Edith Myers, who has returned to Cape Town after a year's residence in South West Africa.

Our annual bazaar was held on the 1st of November. It was formally opened by President Wright. It really was a treat to see the well-laden stalls, and to realise how

many hours of work had gone into the building-up of wares and suitable booths for displaying them. Special mention is made of the wedding-cake in the centre of the hall, which held samples of the best Mormon baking. This stall was the combined effort of Sisters Antoinette Macfarlane, Susie Shelper and Maria Butt.

The luncheons were really delicious. Here the work was done by Sister Jean Wright and Agnes Hubert, with the help of Elder Casper and a troupe of bright-faced young waitresses. The Pinelands and Bellville Relief Societies each had stalls, at which business seemed to be flourishing. Socially, the bazaar was as great a success as it has ever been.

When the "Cape Town Castle" dropped anchor in the Cape Town Dock on the 6th of November, there was great rejoicing among the Fourie clan because the most important passengers aboard were our own beloved Sister Johanna and Uncle Awie Fourie who had returned to our shores after a trip to the United States and Europe. We join the Fourie family in welcoming home those two grand people.

Another wanderer who has returned to the Cape is Brother Eric Bibb, who has come down from the Transvaal for a holiday. We feel certain that Sister Clarissa and Sister Beta Pettersen both had the flags flying and the welcome on the doormat when he hit the home-trail.

On Tuesday the 4th, the M.I.A. staged an amusing debate on the merits and demerits of commercial advertising. The pros were stated by Brother James Vicas and Sister Pamela Wande. The con side was handled by Brother Eddie Higgs and Sister Beatrice Smith. Brother Gordon Terblanche was the chairman.

Our sincere sympathy goes out to Sister Antoinette Macfarlane and Mr. Boyd Macfarlane at the loss of a dearly-loved Sister and Uncle.

The Primary Programme for evening service was postponed to the 16th, so that our Mission Primary Mother could be present. Sister Fourie was deeply moved by the amount of talent displayed by the little ones for whom so much of her work in the Church has been done. Sister Hilda Dyason and her helpers deserve a pat on the back for the patience with which they have brought the children to the pitch of perfection. When the children's programme was through, Sister Fourie addressed the congregation. She told of some of her ex-

periences in Salt Lake City, Palmyra and Idaho.

On Saturday, the 15th, the M-Men and Gleaner Group had a supper at "Cumorah"; after which they went to the Plaza to see "Quo Vadis."

Sister Imelda Williams has returned to Cape Town from Salisbury. She arrived with the Rhodesian delegates to the Convention. We are pleased to see Imelda here and we heartily welcome her.

Brother Alf and Sister Susan Shelper have had a very special visitor, their Aunt, Sister Jubber, who is a Rhodesian delegate. We are all pleased to make the acquaintance of this fine sister, who is really possessed of the spirit of the Gospel.

As we go to print, the delegates are all here. We have been receiving them since the 20th of the month. It does us good to meet all of these brothers and sisters who are well-known to us by name before they arrive here.

Registering for the Convention on the 22nd, was like "old-home week," we had to make so many new friends and greet so many old ones. Those first meetings which gave us the full knowledge of what such a convention really does mean were full of joy and happiness, and we feel sure that every point of knowledge gained is going to be put into practice throughout the mission during the coming year.

The Sunday services, commencing with one at the Rhodes' Memorial, were full of inspiration. To worship our Heavenly Father under the open sky was an experience for many that will never be forgotten.

May this Convention be the source of many blessings to our people throughout this land.

BELLVILLE BRANCH

Branch President: Nicholas Goosen,
"Zerin," Mayville Road.

Reported by Dorathea Storey

The Branch members all attended District Conference at "Cumorah" on the 26th of October. The services were enjoyed by all.

Brother Edwin Jakins celebrated his 82nd birthday this month. All our good wishes go to him and we ask the Lord's blessings on him that he may have good health and live to see a good few more years.

On Friday the 14th the Branch Sunday School held a Social at Brother and Sister Storey's home, in an effort to raise funds to begin a Sunday School library. The social

was a huge success and an enjoyable time was had by all.

RAMAH BRANCH

Branch President: George C. Ganter,
132, Stanhope Road, Malvern Road
Reported by Mary Millan Stark

In order to raise money for the Building Fund, Sister Kitty Smith and her family organised a Square Dance in the Park Hall and she was thus able to show how her "£5 talent money" had grown. Spirited music was provided by Brother Banfield's Band from Krugersdorp.

Sister Signe Smith has been in her element lately training, rehearsing and organising a concert in aid of Relief Society funds which culminated in a fine show on the 31st of October. The Primary children contributed their quota of talent by enacting "The Frog and the Princess" very ably.

Brother Vincert Ganter, the Sunday School Superintendent and his Counsellors planned and produced a beautiful programme on Sunday evening, the 2nd of November. There were songs from the Junior Chorus, scriptures and poems by the various class representatives, a piano solo by Bruno Ganter and talks by Sister Denise Osborne and Brother Norman G. Muir. The theme of this well-balanced programme was "Prayer" and the sincerity of all those participating was manifestly evident.

This year's Hallowe'en Party was conducted by the Primary Association and no pains were spared to give everyone a thrill, although some of the "spook-hunters" found more than they bargained for. The sale of refreshments afterwards helped to swell the coffers of the Primary.

The sympathy of all members is extended to Sister Ann Ganter, the Relief Society President, who has been an inmate of the Florence Nightingale Nursing Home while undergoing an operation. She is now convalescing and we all wish her a speedy recovery.

The suntan gained by Sisters Kitty and Signe Smith and the twins, Joyette and Harmony, after their recent holiday at Margate is the envy of the branch. They appeared to have returned with renewed vigour.

The Genealogical Society very ably presented more truths and facts about their particular field of work in the Lord's Vineyard at a special evening service conducted by them on the 23rd of November. Talks were given by Brother Norman G. Muir and his daughter, Sister Norma Ninow, and

the Ramah Choir added musically to the spiritual programme.

The Branch has suffered a great loss this month through the sudden death of Sister Nellie Hayden who passed away on the 2nd of November. Deepest sympathy is extended to Brother Hayden, his daughter Sister Routledge, his sons and their families. At a simple but beautiful service held at Ramah prior to the funeral Elder Manning offered comfort and sympathy to the family and Sister Muriel Barnes sang an appropriate hymn.

SPRINGS BRANCH

Branch President: H. Hugo, 51, Athlone Avenue, Strubenvale, Springs.

Reported by Mavis E. Louw

The Branch Presidency and members of the Springs Branch wish to extend their Brothers and Sisters of the church, President and Sister Wright, the mission council and all the friends, and last but not least all the missionaries in the mission field a **MERRY XMAS AND VERY PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR**. May the blessings of the Lord be with each and every one throughout the coming year.

It is with regret that we have to say goodbye to President and Sister Wright, as we have grown to love them dearly. Springs Branch owes a great deal to President Wright for his efforts in getting permission to build our Chapel.

To President and Sister Duncan and their family we extend a hearty welcome to South Africa, and pray that their stay in our land will be a happy and fruitful one. We are looking forward to making their acquaintance as most of us well remember President Duncan's brother Frank, who laboured in Springs.

We are happy to have Mr. Ronnie Duncan amongst us. He started as an investigator at Ramah and has now taken up residence with his parents in Springs.

A surprise visit to Springs was made by Sister Denise Osborne, and Sister Arlene Phipson. We hoped they enjoyed their visit as much as we enjoyed having them.

It was nice to see Miss Eunice Somerset and Mr. Ronnie Duncan taking part as 3-minute speakers in our branch activities.

Welcome to Sister Cathrina Jubber and Brother Tommy Jubber who were baptised by our Branch President, Henry Hugo, and District President, I. C. Louw. May the Lord bless them in their righteous desires.

We hope that Sister Sal Campbell, our delegate to the leadership convention, will enjoy herself and bring back a good deal of information that will be of benefit to the branch.

The Gospel Message Class is planning a show in aid of the Sunday School Xmas tree.

We are sorry that Elder Murray of Benoni has not been well lately and pray that he will soon be well again.

PORT ELIZABETH BRANCH

Branch President: Clarence Doller, 18, Caithness Road, Walmer, Port Elizabeth.

Reported by R. McHugh

The M.I.A. staged a Green and Gold Ball which proved a huge success. Congratulations to Sister Mavis Scheckle who was chosen as Queen. Music was supplied by a trio consisting of a drum, piano, and fiddle. Sister Myrtle Everton entertained by singing some fine songs.

Our members have dwindled somewhat, with Sister Trollip and Brother Griffith away at convention. Elder Lee has gone to East London and Elder Falck, having completed his mission, has started for home. We take this opportunity to thank Elder Falck for the work he accomplished in Port Elizabeth, especially as President of the M.I.A.

It was a pleasure to meet Elder LaMar Wilson on his way home. We wish him God-speed.

Sister Florence Smith has to undergo an operation. We pray that the Lord's blessings may be upon her, that she may be restored to full health and be able to be with us again.

(Continued from page 183)

to the family the story of the birth of the Saviour. His voice was gentle and softly modulated, giving an added beauty to the words. The family gazed at him with rapt looks on their faces. When he had finished reading, he closed the Bible, and they commenced singing in clear, sweet tones. The man's eyes filled with tears as he watched the beautiful scene, and his heart felt full. He walked on again, the music ringing in his ears. He felt uplifted and spiritually refreshed, for he could see that there are some families in the world which have peace and goodwill in their homes. Homes which know the true spirit of Christmas.

Statistics . . .

BIRTHS.

HENDRY WILLIAM CHARLES SIEMS, son, was born to Hennie and Florence Smith Siems on the 19th of September, 1952, at Epping Garden Village.

IRENE CAROLINE VAN ANTWERPEN, daughter, was born to Daniel and Olive Anderson van Antwerpen on the 2nd of October, 1952 in Port Elizabeth.

CYNTHIA IRENE LOUW, daughter, was born to Dirk and Irene Smith Louw on the 14th of October, 1952 at Epping Garden Village.

BARBARA ANN KALLIS, daughter, was born to Alexander and Margaret Pirie Kallis on the 19th of October, 1952 at Epping Garden Village.

LESLEY JUSTUS VAN ROOYEN, son, was born to William and Yvonne Smit van Rooyen on the 8th of October, 1952 at Bloemfontein.

GEORGE PAUL GANTER, son, was born to George and Catherine McIntosh Ganter on 27th of October, 1952 at Johannesburg.

BLESSINGS.

CHERYL LYNN SALATI, the daughter of Renato and Iolanthe Salati, was blessed by Elder Clifford A. Coon on November 2, 1952 at the Durban branch.

HENRY WILLIAM CHARLES SIEMS, the son of Hennie and Florence Smith Siems, was blessed by President Evan P. Wright on the 9th of November, 1952, at Epping Garden Village.

BARBARA ANN KALLIS, the daughter of Alexander and Margaret Pirie Kallis, was blessed by Clarence W. Jones on the 9th of November, 1952, at Epping Garden Village.

CYNTHIA IRENE LOUW, the daughter of Dirk and Irene Smith Louw, was blessed by Leslie R. Halse on the 9th of November, 1952, at Epping Garden Village.

ETHNE LUCILLE PRATT, the daughter of Richard and Charity Schult Pratt, was blessed

on the 14th of November, 1952 by Elder Kay L. Crabtree at the Salisbury branch.

GEORGE PAUL GANTER, the son of George and Catherine McIntosh Ganter, was blessed on the 23rd of November, 1952, by George C. Ganter at the Ramah Branch.

BAPTISMS.

DOREEN ROSTRON was baptized on the 19th of November, 1952 by Elder Ben R. Olson and confirmed on the same day by Elder Donald M. Cole at the Ramah Branch.

BEAUFORD JOHN CHARSLEY, the son of Douglas and Georgina Spear Charsley of the Luanshya branch, was baptized and confirmed by Elder Grant E. Olson on the 23rd of November, 1952 at Cape Town.

ANNA CATHARINA (DU PLESSIS) JUBBER was baptized on the 23rd of November, 1952 by Henride Coligny Hugo and confirmed on the same day by Izak C. Louw at the Springs branch.

THOMAS RICHARD ROBINSON JUBBER, the son of Daniel and Diana Marais Jubber was baptized on the 23rd of November, 1952, by Izak C. Louw and confirmed on the same day by Reaford E. Futter at the Springs branch.

DIANA MILDRED HODGES was baptized on the 23rd of November by Elder Ronald B. Clark and confirmed on the same day by President W. E. Barry Mayo at the Mowbray branch.

ORDINATIONS

NOEL STOREY was ordained an Elder by President W. E. Barry Mayo on the 2nd of November, 1952 at the Bellville branch.

DEATHS

NELLIE LULU MAGDELINE (ERASMUS) HAYDEN passed away on the 2nd of November, 1952 at Johannesburg.

TRANSFERS and APPOINTMENTS

TRANSFERS

ELDER MELVIN G. STOCKDALE, was transferred from Luanshya, Northern Rhodesia to Bloemfontein, O.F.S. on December 1, 1952 to labour with Elder Ronald B. Clark.

ELDER DUANE H. BURTENSHAW, was transferred from Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia to Southern Suburbs, Transvaal District, November 25, 1952 to labour with Elder Thomas E. Smith.

ELDER DONALD M. COLE, was transferred from Southern Suburbs, Transvaal District to the Mission Office on November 22nd, 1952.

ELDER JACK E. DAHL, was transferred from Ramah, Transvaal District to the Mission Office on November 22, 1952.

APPOINTMENTS.

ELDER LOWELL D. WOOD was appointed District President of the Durban District and Branch President of the Durban Branch on the 15th of November 1952.

ELDER RONALD B. CLARK, was appointed District President of the O.F.S. and Branch President of the Bloemfontein Branch on November 29, 1952.

ELDER VERYLE B. LEAVITT, was appointed District President of the Port Elizabeth District and Branch President of the Port Elizabeth Branch on November 29, 1952.

ELDER WAYNE J. MANDENHALL, was appointed District President of the East London District and Branch President of the East London Branch on November 29, 1952.

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SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

by Bessie Wolvington

Who can explain the sentiment
That Christmas brings each year?
A warmth, a sense of hatreds spent
With banishment of fear.
A heartfelt glow of brotherhood
Envelops all mankind;
Men stand alike and understood
Communing mind to mind.
If but the concord of this day
Should not tomorrow cease.
Then we would surely find a way
To everlasting peace.



CHRISTMAS EVE

by Ida Dorsey

The angels sang near Bethlehem,
And radiant was glory there
The manger knew the eastern gifts,
But Mary knelt in prayer.
The stars still shine on Bethlehem
And one's rays always shine.
Oh, Christ, how dare we so forget
The Glory which is Thine?
Blind eyes, deaf ears, and scornful lips
Are turned toward Thy cross
While little children know thee not.
But worship Santa Claus.
Some night, with stars on Bethlehem
May mankind kneel again,
Having learned the need of peace on earth
And Thy goodwill toward men.



CHRISTMAS PACKAGE

by Sylvia Drobst

I didn't have money for shopping,
But I send my gift no less,
And it's wrapped in the loveliest wrappings.
The tissue of happiness.
The seals are choice little memories,
And it's tied so it won't come apart
With the best that I could be affording;
It is tied with the strings of my heart,
So open it with all of the others.
It is practical, please use it too,
For the gift that is under the wrapping.
Is my love that I'm sending you.

Merry Christmas